

HOME GARDEN TRAVEL AND LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

PORTRAITTM OF SEATTLE

Indoor / Outdoor Living
Exceptional Homes that Celebrate Nature

Time for a Change?
Inspired Kitchen Renovations

PortraitMagazine.com



Kitchens + Baths
Bungalows to Modern Marvels

Alaskan Salmon
'Salmon Sisters' Recipes

Showroom Finds
From Furniture to Fabrics

FRAMING THE VIEW

written by DONNA PIZZI *photography by* AARON LEITZ & BENJAMIN BENSCHNEIDER

WHEN A PROMINENT KETCHUM, IDAHO GALLERY OWNER INTRODUCED HER ART-LOVING FIANCÉ TO AWARD-WINNING SEATTLE ARCHITECT TOM KUNDIG OF OLSON KUNDIG, THE DESIRE TO BUILD A KUNDIG HOME WAS BORN. NESTLED AMIDST A WARREN OF ASPEN TREES, THE HOUSE RISES DRAMATICALLY TO ENJOY THE VIEW, WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY HONORING THE COUPLE'S EXTRAORDINARY ART COLLECTION.

SOMETIMES IT TAKES A SERIES OF ORDINARY EVENTS to make an extraordinary change in one’s life path. Certainly, that seems to have been the case for Andria Friesen, owner of Friesen Gallery in Sun Valley/Ketchum, Idaho, and her then fiancé Robert DeGennaro, Co-founder, President/COO of PremiumMedia360, upon meeting Tom Kundig at a private celebration held in the Art Stable penthouse, an Olson Kundig project in Seattle, celebrating all who had worked on the project that provided work and studio space for people with significant art collections.

At the time, Friesen and DeGennaro were living in a lovely home in Ketchum and had never, ever discussed building a new home, but the conversation with Kundig set off such a shockwave that DeGennaro proposed to Friesen that they build an elegant Kundig home with edge.

Friesen delights in recounting Kundig’s astonished reply: “Let me get this straight. You want me to design a home for you with plenty of walls for your art and plenty of windows for your view. Then, she adds, “he gave us a big smile and said, ‘I’m up to the task!’”

The couple decided to purchase a prime lot on a favorite golf course located between Bald and Dollar Mountains with a rather nondescript 1,500 sq.ft. 1973 rambler. “Sometimes,” says Kundig, who visited the site before the home was razed, “an existing building can be informative. This particular house, however, didn’t engage with the property effectively at all, so, perhaps it told us what we shouldn’t do.”

Just as the Friesen Gallery offers virtual installations of proposed artwork in clients’ homes, so, too, does Olson Kundig’s full-service team provide advanced techniques as it works from concept through tech and construction phases which, in this case, must meet the demands of building amidst the extreme temperature variances found in a high desert climate. High praise, say the couple, go to the Kundig team, for interfacing so seamlessly with siblings Suzie and David Lucas of Seattle’s Lucas Interior, Ben Young Landscape Architect and Elias Construction, both of Ketchum.

Kundig, in turn, found working with the couple extraordinarily engaging. “They are so skilled and sophisticated in the world of art and genetically understand the fantastic views of nearby and distant landscapes, that they understood how to balance those priorities.”

“With floor-to-ceiling Fleetwood windows,” says Kundig of the company with which he has a tight, long-term relationship, “the garden and/or landscape become your wallpaper, which changes in the high desert with every season, thus becoming an important part of the experience.”

The major challenge in addressing all of these “drivers” for Kundig was coming up with a floor plan – a two-part classic “T” formation” — that embraced the issues of living on a golf course with the need for privacy versus the open, gregariousness of entertaining amidst the couple’s large scale artworks displayed throughout. “It’s not a big house,” explains Friesen, “because we wanted to live in every single room every day, and we do!”



PREVIOUS The steel-and-wood-clad Stirrup House features Fleetwood Kona Windows beneath a steel roof system that flexes beneath weighty snow. Glass-box master suite right occupies the secondary portion of “T” shape architecture. THIS PAGE Barbara Vaughn photo of water on art lift reveals oversized TV on concrete fireplace with hot-rolled steel - wax finish mantel. Custom Gary Leeds audio speakers; William Morris glass art on custom Lucas Interior table. Lucas custom sofas; Driscoll Robbins rug.

THIS PAGE DeGennaro's office overlooks a snowy landscape framed by structural steel and glass by Fleetwood Windows. African mask is a memento from DeGennaro's African trip. RIGHT UPPER Finn Juhl Chieftain chair reproduction and artful kaleidoscopic mosaic tree trunk adjoin master hot-rolled steel fireplace. Lucas tweed coral/burgundy rug from Driscoll Robbins. RIGHT BELOW Peace-filled garden off master suite by Ben Young Landscape Architect, including BYLA custom designed bench with fabric selected by Lucas.



©Benjamin Benschneider



©Benjamin Benschneider



©Aaron Leitz



New York born siblings Suzie and David Lucas of Lucas Interior, who had each collaborated with Olson Kundig while working for a top interior design firm prior to forming their own Seattle company, were recommended to Friesen and DeGennaro by a client for whom they had just completed a remodel. “We came on board,” recalls David, the Lucas Interior Creative Director, “as the envelope was being closed up.”

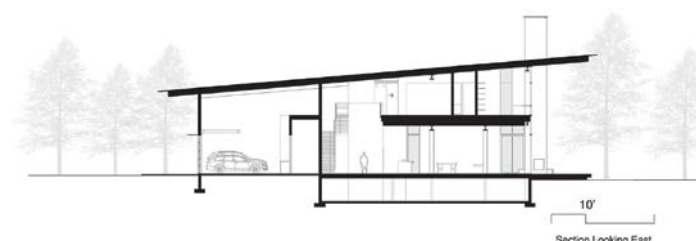
In the kitchen, Lucas collaborated with Kundig’s team to modify a few elements found in the initial design, some of which hailed back to the structural steel found in Kundig’s architecture. “After making the face of the upper cabinets flush with the refrigerator doors to the side for a monolithic clean design,” says David, “we raised the work area, making room for a piece of art and wall-mounted open shelves. A small metal detail was added around the opening on both sides of the counter, as well as trim metal running up the side back to the stone.”

Other changes occurred organically recalls Friesen when the master bedroom, originally, presumed to be located upstairs along with one of their two offices was ensconced instead downstairs to its own wing of the “T” shaped architecture. “You have an instinct to put it on the upper floor,” says Kundig, “which is the natural direction, but we came around to placing it on the main floor with an elegant, graceful flow between the living area and master suite, which has now become a special place – a little glass jewel — a type of garden pavilion from which to embrace all four seasons – which is why,” he adds, “you live in Sun Valley!”

“We are over the moon, thrilled!” says Friesen. “Our bedroom is absolute perfection, and now with our offices located upstairs, we both have spectacular, energizing views from our respective desks.” Suzie Lucas sought to add warmth through color in the master by adding a lush Driscoll Robbins coral and burgundy carpet that plays off the Julie Heffernan artwork doubling as a magnificent headboard.

True to the calling of the Friesen/DeGennaro home is the dedication of an entire wall to the installation of each page from Friesen’s book, “Speak For The Trees,” a compendium of 76 works of arts and over 70 authors throughout history writing about topics ranging from art to

LEFT The entry foyer opens onto the open plan kitchen. Matte ebonized solid rift cut oak cabinetry countered by black granite and Caesarstone countertop. Square Guest Chair stools by BDDW. ABOVE Hydro Systems Picasso free-standing tub. RIGHT Friesen Gallery - Tom Lieber Mixed Media; Diesis Chaise by B&B Italia; Vintage Tribal rug from Driscoll Robbins, colors found in Julia Heffernan artwork. ELEVATION BELOW Section Looking East from entry foyer.





©Aaron Leitz



Exterior concrete wall with fountain features a personalized painting - industrial enamel on steel - by the late Portland, Oregon, artist Jeff Fontaine. The piece resembles a boxcar and contains DeGennaro's mother's birthdate and initials. Lucas' wood library table, replete with cubbies to display art books. Metal portion of modular Lucas dining table joins with wood portion to accommodate larger group dining. DeGennaro's massive subwoofers are tucked beneath the fireplace in a 6'1" mechanical area located below the home.

THIS PAGE Stan Learner paintbrush (oil on carved wood) pairs with Teresa Fernandez's woman straddling ironing board to iron hair. Page-by-Page installation of Friesen's book, "Speak For The Trees" RIGHT Lawrence Fodor (Friesen Gallery) oil on canvas entitled "Rain Forest" graces the entrance on a double-height foyer wall. The kitchen island is seen at right, while a sculpture features two businessmen fighting over money at left beneath the staircase rising to the second floor.



©Aaron Leitz



©Benjamin Benschneider

science to spirituality, environment and philosophy coalescing as one heavenly whole. All of which came to her as she gazed at a bumper sticker while waiting at a Ketchum stop light!

While Suzie Lucas suggested the wall on which Friesen could display her book, she also enjoyed working with Friesen to cull colors for some of the unseen “funkier stuff,” like the yellow lacquered cabinetry in the laundry room, which serendipitously turned out to be named: “Sun Valley Yellow.”

One of the most important elements behind the project’s success say Friesen and DeGennaro was their dedication to being on the job site daily. “It was our choice out of the joy and excitement of being a part of the project,” says Friesen.

“During the building process,” says DeGennaro, “there were so many things that had to be worked out, which was fascinating to me—such as how they could create a roof system with enough flex to keep the glass from breaking when the roof is heavy with snow.” The installation of the Fleetwood “Curtain Wall,” which at a glance appears as if there is “floor-to-ceiling” glass on each level, was the answer. In fact, the glass is a single curtain spanning from the ground to the roof. The ceiling of lower and floor of upper do not actually touch the glass; they float approximately 1/4” away from it. “Tricky elements like this were all resolved once a week with a standard call,” says DeGennaro. “That was the beauty of the overall team, the desire to work together to put a square peg in a round hole.”

“There hasn’t been one day,” says Friesen, “since we moved in here that Robert or I or both have not expressed our gratitude for being able to live here. The collective team of Kundig, Lucas Interior, BYLA, and Elias Construction brought their ‘A Game’ and we’re left with the luxury of the results, daily.”

PROJECT SOURCES

CONTRACTOR

Elias Construction
www.eliasconstruction.com

ARCHITECT

Olson Kundig
www.olsonkundig.com

INTERIOR DESIGN

Lucas Interior
www.lucasinterior.com

WINDOWS & DOORS

Fleetwood Windows & Doors
www.fleetwoodusa.com

Plumbing Fixtures: Kohler, Graff, Toto, Mr. Steam; Patio Furniture: Terris Draheim: Brown Jordan